

## **Carcass Disposal Recommendations for CWD-MZ (Rev. 10/24/2010)**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) can be spread among deer by both direct contact between animals and exposure to environments contaminated with CWD prions, the protein that causes the disease. Exposure to an area where a CWD-positive carcass has decomposed could be enough to cause infection in deer.

Because of this risk, it is important that the carcasses of deer possibly infected with CWD, including all bones and other waste from butchering, be disposed of in a way that protects uninfected deer from exposure. While there are some disposal methods that destroy prions, such as incineration at 1800° F or digestion in sodium hydroxide, these methods are cost-prohibitive and not practical for most people. Therefore, the following, in order of efficacy and practicality, are the recommended options that hunters should use when disposing of deer-carcass waste.

1. The preferred option available is disposal in a landfill that accepts deer waste. Landfills are a safe and cost-effective option for disposing of carcass waste potentially contaminated with CWD-causing prions. Landfill disposal establishes a barrier between uninfected deer and deer-carcass waste that potentially contains infectious CWD material. Scientific research has shown that when properly disposed of in a landfill, prions are extremely unlikely to migrate from the landfill disposal site. For most people, disposal in a landfill would be accomplished either by taking that waste directly to the landfill or through their regular trash pick-up service.
2. While landfilling is preferred, another option is to bury the carcass waste. It should be buried deep enough to prevent scavengers from digging it back up. This method effectively removes the waste from the open environment and, again, places a barrier between uninfected deer and the source of infection. This option may be more convenient for some people.
3. Additionally, if the above options are not available, the DNR provides three dumpsters in which hunters can dispose of their carcass waste. For hunters in the western part of the CWD Management Zone, there are two options. One dumpster is located at the DNR-operated deer registration station just south of the village of Black Earth on Highway 78 in Dane County. The other is in Iowa County, at the deer registration station in Barneveld, just south of Highway 18/151. For hunters in the eastern part of the CWD Management Zone, a third dumpster is located at the Turtle Valley Wildlife Area, north of Delavan in Walworth County. Because of the limited availability of this third dumpster, persons interested in utilizing it should contact Rachel Anderson (262-424-9827) or Chuck Gatling (262-719-1067) to arrange for disposal. These DNR dumpsters are provided for people to use only when the above options are not available or practical.
4. Finally, as a last resort, and only on their own land, hunters can put the waste back on the landscape. This should be done as close to where the deer was harvested as possible and only within the CWD-MZ or the adjacent DMUs. Persons using this option should also, if possible, put the carcass waste in a location where other deer and scavengers are unlikely to encounter it. At no time should the head, spine, or other restricted portions of deer harvested within the CWD-MZ be moved or disposed of outside of the CWD-MZ or an adjacent DMU (see current Deer Hunting Regulations booklet for details). As a reminder, it is illegal to dispose of waste on any public lands or road right-of-ways. As in the rest of the state, field dressing a deer and leaving the gut pile on site on public or private land is still permitted. Although gut piles pose a risk of transmitting CWD, evidence indicates that the risk is minimal due to their short persistence time on the landscape due to high rates of scavenging.

We thank you for your help with the effort to prevent carcass waste from becoming a source for the spread of CWD. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Davin Lopez at (608) 267-2948 or Tim Marien at (608) 264-6046

